

Hello, Boulder.

FROM MAYOR **SUZANNE JONES** AND CITY MANAGER **JANE BRAUTIGAM**

If you are like we are, you probably check your mailbox these days with a little bit of ambivalence. Gone is the excitement of receiving fun handwritten letters or personalized cards. So much correspondence is done through e-mail, phone texts or social media.

While we expand digital forms of communication like our website, Facebook, Twitter and newer social media platforms like Instagram and Nextdoor, we recognize there is power in holding news in your hands and reading a print product.

So, welcome to the very first edition of your community newsletter!

Boulder City Council, as part of the 2016 budget, has funded a two-year pilot project that will result in 11 newsletters, five in 2016 and six in 2017, sent bi-monthly to all households in Boulder. We'll also have copies available at the libraries, recreation and senior centers and other city facilities.

We hope to bring you stories that go beyond basic news releases, highlighting interesting city initiatives, ways you can tap into the many services we offer, and information to save for future use, as well as city and community values in action.

Boulder has a long history of thoughtful and engaged citizenry. Many of the characteristics people treasure most about our community were borne from grassroots initiatives and solid collaboration between the community and local government. We hope this newsletter both recognizes and cultivates an appreciation for what we have here and what we have created together.

Please see **WELCOME** on Page 16

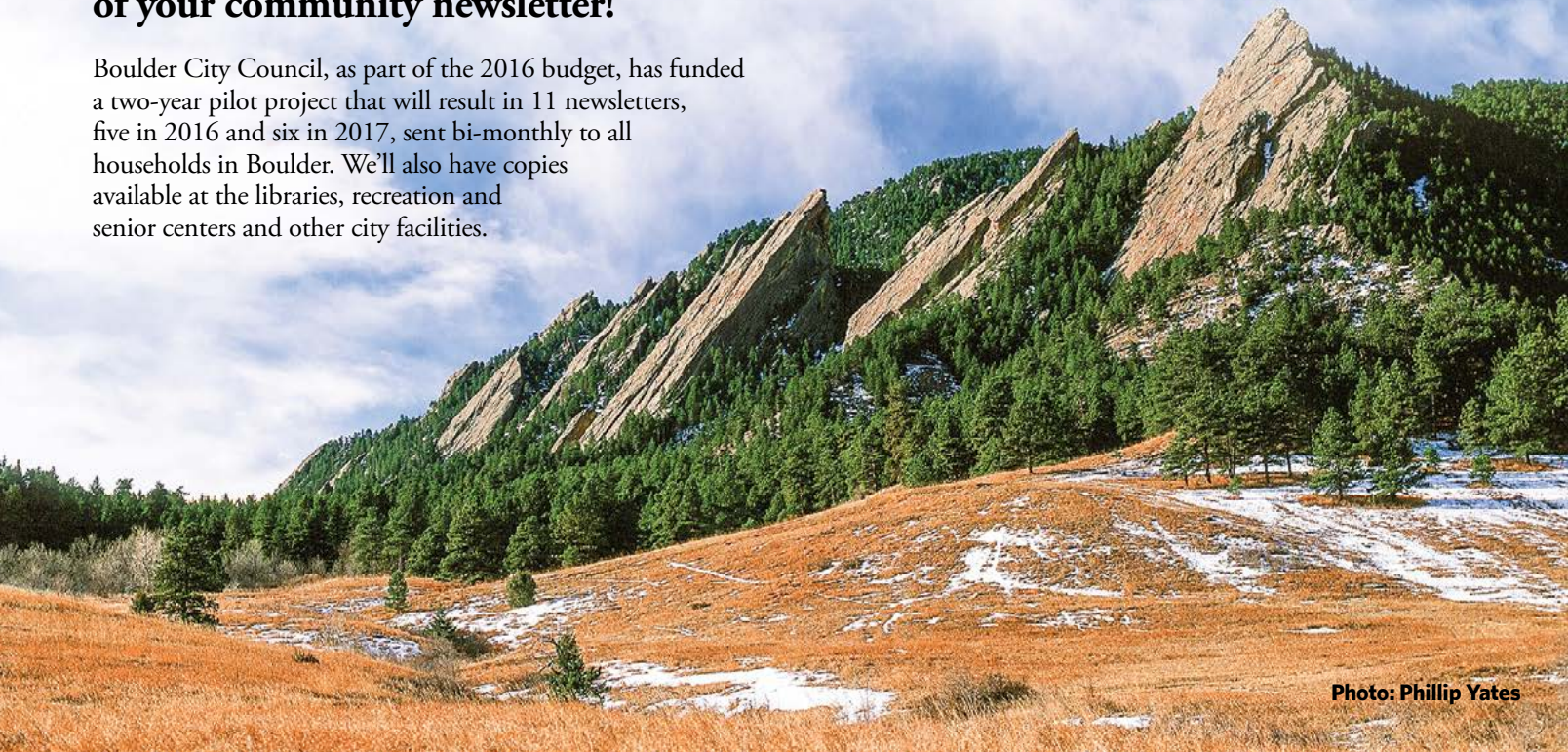


Photo: Phillip Yates

Transforming our energy system

You probably don't need a federal scientist to tell you this, but NASA and NOAA have confirmed it: 2015 was the hottest year on record.

Climate change and associated rising temperatures are resulting in costly and frequent extreme weather events across the world. The U.S. is already feeling the impacts – as is Boulder – and based on current trends, we can expect more.

Fortunately, we live in a community that “gets” this issue, where voters have committed themselves to making a positive difference.

“What we are really talking about is transforming our entire energy system, which is both daunting, and very exciting.”

Brett KenCairn

senior environmental planner
with the City of Boulder

Over the past two years, the city's climate team, with support from consultants and community partners, has evaluated our community's emission-reduction efforts to date and identified areas for even more significant impact. The result is a draft strategy framework we call Boulder's Climate Commitment.

This document is based on a new climate goal – one grounded in science that aligns with action being taken by other communities – to achieve an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, or sooner.

We invite you to think of this in a different way: In the coming two to three decades, at least 80 percent of all our energy use – electricity, natural gas, how we power our cars – must come from clean, renewable sources instead of carbon-emitting fossil fuels.

“Emissions reductions are tough to visualize,” said Brett KenCairn, senior environmental planner with the City of Boulder. “We want to make it easier for everyone to



The City of Boulder has one of the highest per capita rates of rooftop solar in the U.S. Climate plans call for even more.

measure our community's progress by seeing and being able to measure, for example, the addition of more solar generation or an increase in electric vehicles.”

“What we are really talking about is transforming our entire energy system, which is both daunting, and very exciting,” KenCairn said.

Please see **CLIMATE** on Page 18

Solar Benefits Boulder County

Get big discounts on installed solar and electric vehicles!

SIGN UP BY MAY 15

Visit solarbenefitscolorado.com for more info



OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE.

BOULDER VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City of Boulder and Boulder County are updating the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, which seeks to protect the natural environment of the Boulder Valley while fostering a livable, vibrant and sustainable community. Here are a few things you should know about the plan and reasons to participate.



AN EVOLVING LONG-TERM VISION

The comp plan is a statement of the community's desires for future development and preservation of the Boulder Valley. Since 1977, the plan has been updated regularly to reflect the community's new priorities, changing conditions and emerging challenges.



YOUR OPINION COUNTS

With each update, members of the community propose ideas and suggest changes to the plan, like adding an emphasis on local food and climate action in 2010. So, make your voice heard and make an impact!



THESE ARE TOUGH CHALLENGES

This update focuses on subjects like affordable housing, Boulder's Climate Commitment and creating a resilient community that can deal with natural disasters and new challenges. These are big, important issues, and your opinion is important to help set goals and priorities about how the community should best respond.



THE PLAN HELPS THE COMMUNITY PRESERVE "A UNIQUE IDENTITY"

The plan sets policies about building design quality, historic and natural preservation, and the public realm. This update will consider new ways to help each part of our community maintain its individual character or help respond to problems in neighborhood-appropriate ways.



THE PLAN IS "COMPREHENSIVE"

Land use not your thing? The plan covers transportation, historic preservation, the arts and more, making it a cornerstone document that influences many other plans, policies and programs.

'What If?' Shaping Choices for the Boulder Valley

Join us in May for a special event to discuss community input so far regarding the BVCP update and to start shaping potential scenarios for the future. Details online at BoulderValleyCompPlan.net.

A community is best defined by its people. From volunteers to city employees to neighbors helping neighbors, there is no shortage of hometown heroes in Boulder – and we are delighted to spotlight one per newsletter. This edition's Hometown Hero is:

Merilee Eggleston

BoulderReads tutor



Merilee Eggleston, right, and Maputo Mensah.

BoulderReads is a community literacy program offered by the Boulder Public Library. The program relies upon volunteer tutors who receive training to provide one-on-one literacy instruction for adults and reading programs for children. Both tutors and learners commit to three hours of tutoring each week for at least six months.

Tutor Merilee Eggleston and Maputo Mensah have been working together to improve Mensah's literacy for over five years. The two have become friends and mutual fans.

After working 25 years in editing, mostly alone, Eggleston was looking to volunteer, "doing something that would directly impact someone's life for the better." She became aware of BoulderReads when visiting the library. She was struck by how difficult life would be in our society for an adult with literacy challenges, and she appreciated the training and support BoulderReads offers its tutors.

Since beginning with BoulderReads, Eggleston has come to understand the commitment it takes for adult learners — many of whom have multiple jobs, families, and busy lives — to participate. She has also discovered how far the ripples can spread from that commitment. Individuals benefit, but so do their families and the communities they touch.

In her learner's case, the ripples spread especially wide.

Mensah, who is originally from Ghana, has been in Colorado for 16 years, and came to BoulderReads more than eight years ago with the ultimate goal of earning his high school equivalency certificate. While at BoulderReads, he has also achieved U.S. citizenship.

Mensah teaches African dance and drumming at the University of Colorado, University of Denver, Naropa University, and K-12 schools, and performs with his dance troupe, Logo Ligi. He and his brother travel with U.S.

students to Ghana each year and are working to build a performing arts center there, called the Akpe Cultural Center. Akpe means "gratitude" in the Ewe language.

"God has sent me an angel and she has helped me a lot and is in my prayers," Mensah said of Eggleston. He credits his tutor specifically with his ability to read and prepare contracts and emails, read to his child, and improve his fundraising efforts.

You can learn more about Mensah and his performing and fundraising goals through his webpage: maputomensah.com. Learn more about BoulderReads by visiting: boulderreads.org.

If you would like to nominate a Hometown Hero, please email the person's name, contact information and a brief reason for the nomination, along with your contact information, to communitynewsletter@bouldercolorado.gov.

Summer fun



Those loooooong summer days will be here soon!

Boulder Parks and Recreation has an expansive summer camp program to provide children with a safe and nurturing environment that allows them to challenge and test themselves.

Discounted pricing for residents.

Some Offerings:

- An award-winning "goat" camp
- Rock climbing
- Swimming
- Canoeing
- Group games
- Dance
- Reading
- Arts

Spots are filling up fast! For more information and to register, please visit: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/camps>.

WE ARE
ZERO WASTE BOULDER



City implements new recycling, compost requirements for homeowners, property managers and businesses

Boulder is a sustainability leader in many ways, yet we send more than 60 percent of our waste to the landfill. Compare that to San Francisco, which buries less than 20 percent of its waste in the ground. By choosing to reuse, recycle and compost rather than send waste to the landfill, we add value to our “waste,” support our natural resources and invest in the future of our community and local economy.

Last year, we became one of the first communities in the nation to require recycling and composting citywide.

These new guidelines are part of a healthy future – a future in which we become a zero waste community, where we reduce the waste we generate and then reuse, recycle and compost most of what we throw away. Our goal is to generate new materials from 85 percent of our waste by 2025, saving it from the landfill. We’re well on our way, and we’re taking the biggest step yet with new universal zero waste requirements.

Where does Boulder’s waste go?



- **All businesses** must separate recyclables and compostables from the trash and provide properly placed containers and signage by September 2016; and
- **All special events** in Boulder must provide recycling and composting collection by June 2016.

What can I do?

We’re so glad you asked! Start by visiting our exciting new website: ZeroWasteBoulder.com.

Connect with all the resources you’ll need to help you comply through the site, including training videos, signage, rebates, incentives and more. Reach out to ZeroWaste@bouldercolorado.gov if you have any questions, or are a business or property manager seeking free one-on-one advising.

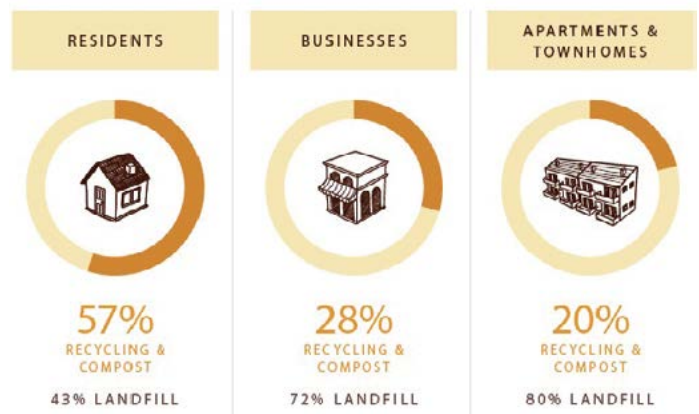
Wondering what you do with your old laptop, yoga mat or used building materials? Visit our What Goes Where page to learn more about Boulder’s great zero waste facilities and what materials can be reused, recycled and composted. Visit our Special Events page to learn what steps you can take to make your own event zero waste.

So what are the new standards?

In June 2015, City Council approved requirements to expand recycling and composting to all Boulder residents, employees and visitors. At work, at home and around town, you’ll soon be able to recycle and compost everywhere. Here’s how it will happen:

- **All single-family homeowners** must subscribe to waste hauling services by June 2016;
- **All property managers** must provide adequate trash, recycling and composting service to their tenants and occupants by June 2016;

How much waste does Boulder recycle and compost?



Trust, safety are top priorities



GREG TESTA
BOULDER POLICE CHIEF

Excellent police service starts with community partnerships and a commitment to integrity. The Boulder Police Department, like many departments across the nation, holds these among our core values. We also share in your frustration

when national events erode community trust or mutual efforts to create a welcoming community.

In our case, the department's mission has remained the same for years: Working with the community to provide service and safety. More than just a statement, this summarizes our beliefs and value system about how we engage with our community. The Boulder Police Department recognizes the importance of community involvement in combating crime, improving the quality of life for all residents, and in 21st century policing that includes transparency, accountability and a shared commitment to community values.

This is especially important in how police respond to dangerous situations, interact with the diversity of people who make up our community, and in how we build an environment of trust everyday so all feel comfortable calling an officer in a time of need. It's about breaking down barriers and getting to know each other as individuals and as fellow community members.

Our department has used this community policing model successfully for some time. Since becoming chief, the department and I have made this an even greater priority. Over the past year, you may have seen officers at our recreation centers providing refreshments and answering questions, hosting youth soccer games, participating in community meetings, stopping on a bike path to say hello, or you may have received a survey asking for

feedback on how we're doing. These candid interactions are as much about getting to know you as they are about you getting to know us as members of the neighborhood.

While there are opportunities for adults to attend the Citizens Police Academy and ride with an officer, we also are paying particular attention to our younger generation. We want to build positive impressions and relationships early on, both through actual experiences and educational opportunities.

Grade-school students are eligible to attend "Camp 911," where they learn about policing. A two-week Youth Academy is offered to middle and high

school students where they receive an in-depth look at law enforcement, along with some hands-on training. We developed and implemented an Explorer Program that provides practical training to young adults between the ages of 16 to 21 who are considering a career in law enforcement. And, our longstanding Safety First Program gives developmentally challenged adults and teens an opportunity to learn about staying safe at home and around town, how to ride public transportation and what to expect when they come into contact with police and firefighters.

The Boulder Police Department has a culture of continuous improvement, so that we can communicate even more effectively with the community, document necessary data and ensure the services we provide are fair and impartial. Many of the programs offered by the department, videos of officers on the job, and information about our professional standards are online at bouldercolorado.gov/police. There's also information about crime statistics, safety tips and police news to keep our community better informed.

Our commitment is to work with our community – with each of you – to provide the best service possible and to keep Boulder a safe, welcoming and inviting place. We hope you will join us in this mission, and we always welcome ideas about how we can do things better.

Pothole season is returning to Colorado. The City of Boulder is taking steps to quickly fix potholes, decrease their number, limit the damage they might cause and even prevent them from forming. Here's what you should know.

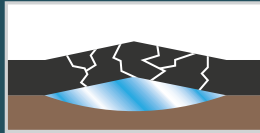


How potholes form

Colorado's winters, filled with snowstorms one day and warm sunny days the next, mean potholes are a fact of life.



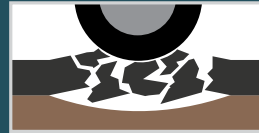
1. Water from melting snow and ice seeps into pavement and soil beneath the road.



2. Water freezes, expands and pushes the pavement up, causing it to deteriorate.



3. The ice melts, leaving gaps in the pavement and roadbed. Cavities can form in the soil.



4. The weight of passing vehicles further weakens the pavement and it begins to break up.



5. Larger and larger pieces of roadway crumble apart, eventually creating a pothole.

How the city fixes potholes



Potholes reported through Inquire Boulder or by phone are tracked, and a map is created to show the potholes in the city and their repair status.



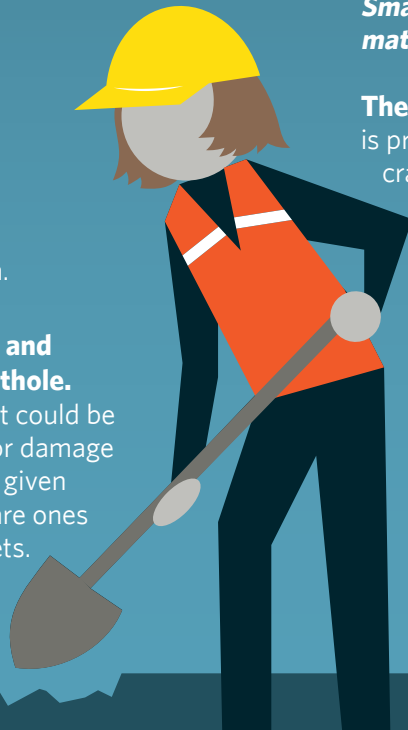
City road crews catalogue potholes when they see them.

More than 1,000 potholes

were filled after being reported through Inquire Boulder in 2015.

Workers patch and repair the pothole.

Potholes that could be dangerous or damage vehicles are given priority, as are ones in busy streets.



How Boulder prevents potholes

Smart planning and the right techniques and materials can keep potholes from forming.

The city's Pavement Management Program

is proactive in conducting repairs such as filling cracks and applying chip seals, which can extend the life of pavement by 8 to 12 years.

Larger projects

include resurfacing or reconstructing streets using improved asphalt mixes that withstand lower temperatures and help roads last longer.

20%

of the mix used by the City of Boulder is from recycled asphalt.

Every \$1 spent on minor preventive repairs early on can save \$7 to \$8 on more expensive reconstruction in the future.

How to report potholes



• **Go online to InquireBoulder.com** and search for potholes. That will tell you how to file a service request or a claim if your vehicle was damaged.



• **Download and use the Inquire Boulder app**, which lets you put the pothole on a map and add photos, right from your phone or tablet.

• **Always be sure to include** the nearest address or intersection when making a report.

• bouldercolorado.gov/transportation •

Community vision for Boulder's northern open space coming into focus

In the coming months, the Boulder City Council will consider a long-term management plan that aims to improve visitor experiences on city open space north of Boulder while also sustaining the land's diverse natural, cultural and agricultural resources.

Under development for more than 14 months, the North Trail Study Area (TSA) Plan seeks to increase the sustainability of trails and trailheads in a geographic area known as the North Trail Study Area, which spans more than 7,700 acres of Open Space and Mountain Parks-managed open space north of Boulder.

OSMP staff anticipates presenting the North TSA Plan to the City Council in the summer. Last month, the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT), which makes recommendations to City Council regarding open space, approved the North Trail Study Area Plan with modifications. They also recommend that the Boulder City Council accept the draft plan with the OSBT-supported modifications.

"We've been working hard to develop a community-driven plan that balances our community's interests for the land while conserving the land's rich and diverse natural resources," said Steve Armstead, planner for Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP).

Plan highlights

In an effort to improve visitor experiences within the North TSA, the plan calls for the development of a new trail connection between Foothills Trail and Joder Ranch on the west side of U.S. Highway 36. The creation of this trail is an important link in building a trail between City of Boulder open space and Boulder County Parks and Open Space's Heil Valley Ranch. Some other plan recommendations include:

- A new loop trail and trailhead on Joder Ranch to complement the existing Joder Ranch trail and trailhead, near U.S. Highway 36 and Neva Road.
- A new trailhead and new and improved trails in the Boulder Valley Ranch area.
- Interpretative signs to help the community learn about the land.
- A fishing pier at Wonderland Lake and a new loop trail on the Wonderland hogback.

- For more information about the plan, please visit: NorthTSA.org

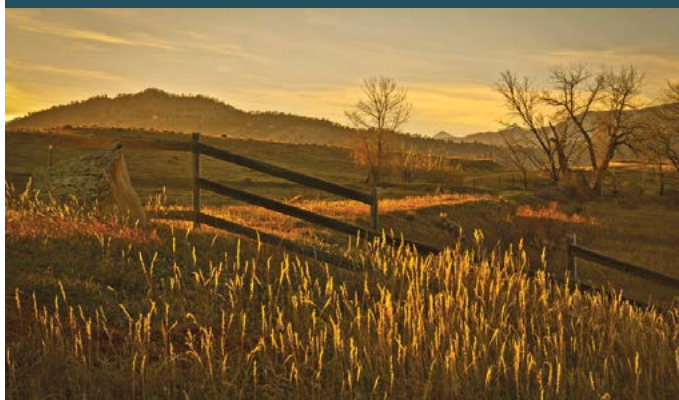


Photo: Jack Sasson

- Work to bring all OSMP trailheads and trails in the North TSA up to department sustainability standards.
- Collaboration with partner agencies to develop new trail connections.

While the plan includes numerous visitor experience improvements, it also seeks to conserve important natural, agricultural and cultural resources. The plan calls for the closure and re-vegetation of undesignated trails to increase natural habitat. It also restricts access to city properties north of Nelson Road to conserve agricultural resources and protect sensitive habitat areas, including grasslands, streams, ponds and wetlands. However, property closures would not prevent future public access if future regional connections become possible.

Developing a community vision

Through the development of the plan, staff and OSBT worked to ensure that the plan reflected community interests, said Tracy Winfree, director of Open Space and Mountain Parks.

"We have an engaged and informed community that provided incredibly insightful comments at nine public workshops and through online opportunities," said Winfree, adding the department also worked with Growing Up Boulder and Junior Ranger Program participants to include Boulder-area youth.

"We believe the process has resulted in a plan that reflects a community vision for the city's northern open space," Winfree said.

Liaison aims to connect neighborhoods

Neighborhoods are the heart and soul of a community – and Boulder recognizes the importance of nourishing good relationships through quality communication and increased engagement.

The city now has a neighborhood liaison – the position was funded in 2015 – who is responsible for developing and implementing programs and systems that will increase connectivity between neighbors, among neighborhoods and with the city.

Neighborhood Liaison Amanda Nagl is eager to meet with neighborhood groups and leaders and would welcome invitations to connect through walk and talks or through neighborhood events. Neighborhoods do not need to be “organized,” or have a formal structure or group, in order to reach out. Instead, connection may be a first step toward



Amanda Nagl

Tell us about your neighborhood

We often hear how much people love their neighborhoods and the features, people and history that make them unique. As we build on the existing sense of community within neighborhoods, we'd love to hear from you. If you have a story to share about what makes your neighborhood special, please email it, along with your contact information, to nagla@bouldercolorado.gov. We may print it in a future edition!

discussing how neighborhood leadership and organization looks across the city. It's also an opportunity to develop contacts and knowledge in order to identify goals and build capacity.

Amanda may be reached at nagla@bouldercolorado.gov or at 303-441-1895. Learn about upcoming events and stay up to date on the development of Neighborhood Services at bouldercolorado.gov/neighborhoods.

Several local parks slated for facelifts

Boulder Parks and Recreation's planning team is preparing for the annual renovation and refurbishment of several neighborhood parks in 2016 and 2017. The goal of these upgrades is to “take care of what we have,” by providing vibrant and functional neighborhood parks.

Design information will be presented for community feedback throughout 2016 (visit Boulderparknews.org for more details). Construction is anticipated to begin this year with completion in late 2017, weather dependent.

The parks included in this round of updates are Arapahoe Ridge Park (Rock Park) in east Boulder, Tantra Park in South Boulder, and Christensen and Howard Heuston parks located in northeast Boulder. These parks were prioritized through the department's asset management program, which determines the priority of neighborhood park projects based on condition.

Staff is currently seeking a consultant to perform the design and construction planning with the first outreach events to occur in the coming months.



CANDID CAPTURE: A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

The scene: Snooze on Pearl Street during a weekday breakfast hour

The main character: A young man sitting alone hunched over a table, a hooded sweatshirt pulled up over his head, obscuring most of his face.

What happens next: A man sitting at a table nearby has a brief conversation with the server and then leaves the restaurant. A few minutes later, the server approaches the young man and announces that the stranger has just paid for his breakfast as a gift.

The impact: Genuinely surprised, the young man pulls the hooded sweatshirt away from his face and displays a look of amazement. He tells the server that he can't believe a stranger would do this for him – and shares that today is his birthday. He enjoys the rest of his breakfast with a big smile on his face.

Our reaction: Kudos to everyone involved! Good neighbor gestures like this can go a long way toward helping people feel valued in our community. Keep 'em coming!

City, brewer strike partnership

Beer byproduct benefits city's wastewater treatment efforts

On the one hand, you have beer – arguably one of Boulder's best-loved products – enjoyed at restaurants and homes across town. On the other hand, you have wastewater treatment, which isn't exactly dinner-table conversation.

But what happens when the two come together?

Here in Boulder, this unlikely pairing is helping to protect the environment, preserve drinking water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Avery Brewing supplies the city's 75th Street Wastewater Treatment Facility with weak wort, a sugar-water byproduct of brewing beer. The facility, in turn, uses it to lower nitrogen levels in discharges that flow from the plant.

The combination works well because weak wort has a high level of biodegradable carbon, which feeds the microorganisms that reduce nitrogen compounds. These compounds are of significant concern to our community and to state and federal officials who worry about the ecological and health effects.

Too much nitrogen can endanger aquatic wildlife and impact drinking water quality downstream. Illness, such as "blue baby syndrome," occurs when infants consume water high in nitrate, one form of nitrogen. The nitrate diminishes the ability of hemoglobin in red blood cells to carry oxygen throughout the body. Babies with this syndrome often have a bluish tone to their skin and are at risk for asphyxiation.

These concerns have led to strict U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and health department regulations.

Boulder has monitored and reduced nitrate discharge levels since 2007, when the city took a proactive step of removing approximately 50 percent of nitrogen from its



Avery Brewing captures weak wort and shares it with the city to break down nitrogen.

wastewater discharges, prior to any government mandates. In 2013, the city sought and received more than \$1 million in grant funding to begin a pilot program with Avery Brewing to see if it could minimize the use of costly and potentially harmful chemicals like methanol or acetic acid. Avoiding chemical use would also reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions.

Now, this innovative program is poised to become a permanent part of the treatment routine, with the installation later this summer of a 6,000-gallon storage tank for the weak wort on Avery's campus.

The partnership is a win-win. The city gets the valuable wort for free, while Avery has a way to dispose of it safely.

It is also an example of public-private ingenuity and innovation at work.

The partnership became a reality after a process engineer at the wastewater facility suggested the city consider tapping into an emerging trend of using industrial byproducts to support other important processes.

Please see **WATER** on Page 15

Know the code

Ensure your home improvement project is safe and follows city regulations

Spring is a great time to plan home improvement projects. But before making a trip to the hardware store, there is something you should check: the City of Boulder's building codes and building permit website. Making sure your project follows city rules, and is approved, will give you peace of mind that your project is safe, while possibly saving time and money down the road.

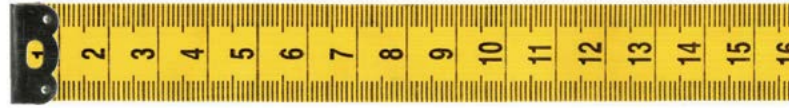
Managed by the city's Planning and Development Services team, building codes are the minimum standards that help ensure that building projects are safe from structural failure, fire hazards from electrical and heating systems, electrical shock, and health risks.

A permit is written authorization from the city that allows you to construct, alter, move, enlarge, replace, repair, remove or demolish a building or structure on your property in accordance with city regulations. Permits also become part of the permanent record of the city, so later you can prove the work was authorized. This can be important when selling or refinancing your property, or when making insurance claims. If you build or alter your property without following city rules, additional, costly construction may be necessary to bring the project up to code. You may also be subject to fines.

How do you know if you need a permit? You can review Boulder's codes online at bouldercolorado.gov/plan-develop/codes-and-regulations. The website also includes a list of projects that are generally exempt from permitting. But for many projects, it may be easier to stop by the Planning and Development Services Center, located at 1739 Broadway, or call the team at 303-441-1880.

The center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. Along with most U.S. cities, Boulder has adopted the International Code Council (ICC) Building and Energy Codes, as well as local amendments that conform to the community vision represented in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan.

While a small shed or a fence that is shorter than six feet



Questions?

Call 303-441-1880 or email plandevelop@bouldercolorado.gov.

- Find additional materials and guidance at the city's building permit page: bouldercolorado.gov/plan-develop/building-permits.
- Track the status of your permit application at bouldercolorado.gov/plan-develop/permit-status-report.
- Need a contractor? Check out the city's list of licensed contractors at bouldercolorado.gov/plan-develop/hiring-a-contractor.
- If your project includes digging or excavation, check for buried utilities first. Call 811 or 800-922-1987.

may not require a permit, other factors, such as projects located within a historic district or in a flood plain, may require permitting. Also keep in mind that homeowner's associations or community covenants may have unique rules you must follow.

If your project does require a city permit, you can find application materials, fee information and examples of previous permit applications on the building permit website at bouldercolorado.gov/plan-develop/building-permits.

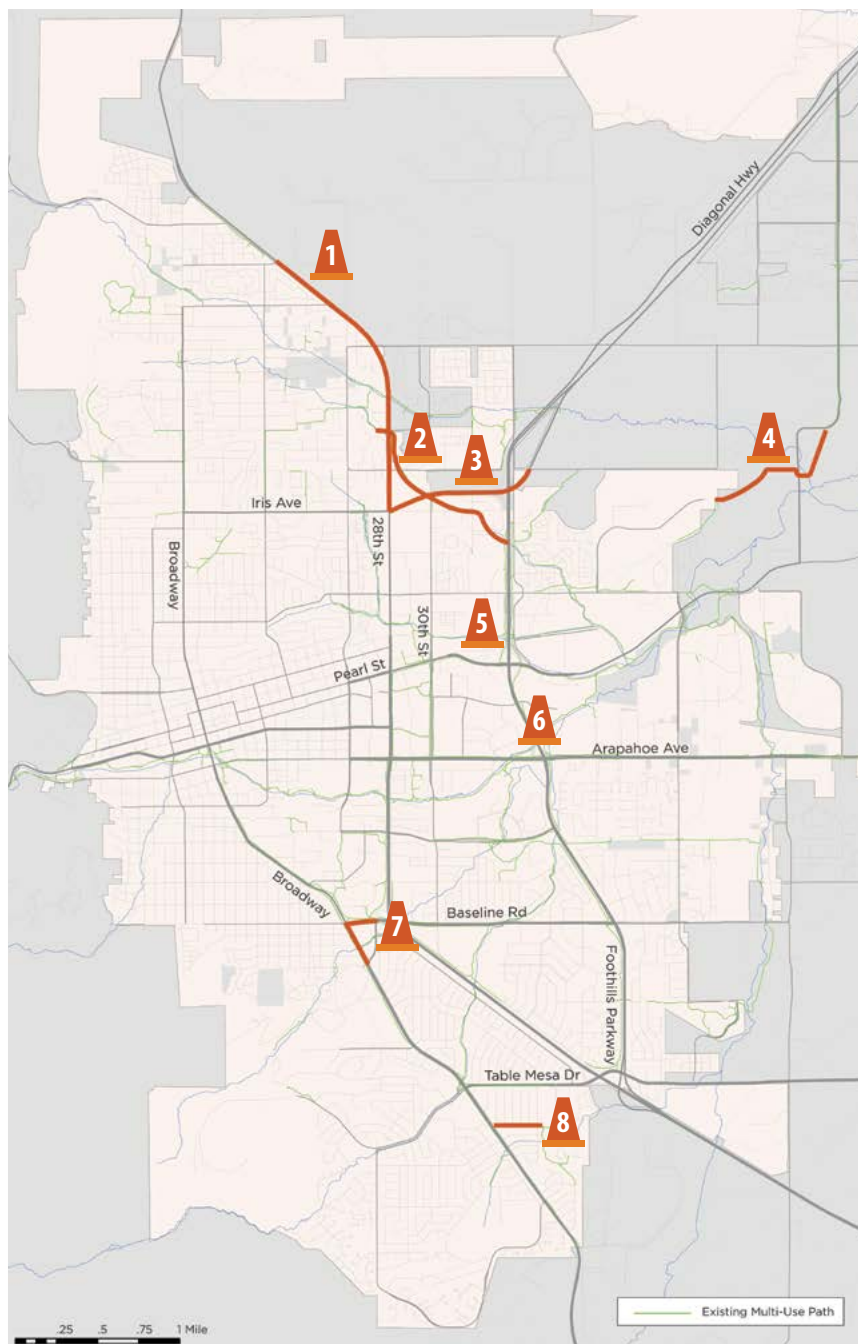
Many applications must be hand delivered to the Planning and Development Services Center so that a project specialist can review the application with you or your representative. However, you may use faxable SKIP-A-TRIP forms for some permit types, such as minor electrical, roofing and mobile home permits.

Once you know your spring project is safe and approved by the City of Boulder, it's time for that trip to the hardware store.

Send in your ideas!

If you would like to learn more about a city function or team, or if you have an idea for an upcoming "How To" newsletter feature, let us know. Email your questions and ideas to communitynewsletter@bouldercolorado.gov.

These current and upcoming City of Boulder construction projects are making Boulder's roads, multi-use paths, greenways and other infrastructure safer and last longer. Visit bouldercolorado.gov/transportation for more information about these and more upcoming projects in and around Boulder and check BoulderConeZones.net for the latest construction updates.



1 28th Street

28th Street between Iris and Yarmouth avenues

- **Duration:** Ongoing through spring
- **Description:** Builds multi-use path, pedestrian and bikebridge, bike lane and widens vehicular bridge
- **Impact:** Pedestrian detours around closed multi-use path and sidewalk

2 Wonderland Creek greenway improvement project

Wonderland Creek from Winding Trail to Foothills Parkway

- **Duration:** Ongoing through early 2018
- **Description:** Flood mitigation project that includes construction of multi-use paths and underpasses
- **Impact:** Intermittent road and path closures that could cause detours

3 Diagonal Highway reconstruction

Diagonal Highway between 28th Street and Independence Road

- **Duration:** Ongoing through fall 2016
- **Description:** Reconstructs vehicle traffic lanes, adds bicycle and multi-use paths
- **Impact:** Lane closures during off-peak hours

4 Andrus to Airport multiuse path

Between Andrus Road and Airport Road

- **Duration:** Summer 2016
- **Description:** Builds trail to fill gap between existing paths
- **Impact:** Minimal, as construction is off road

5 Frontier Avenue bridge replacement

Frontier Avenue between Pearl Parkway and Pearl Street

- **Duration:** Ongoing through spring 2016
- **Description:** Replaces old bridge, adds sidewalks
- **Impact:** Occasional single-lane closures

6 Boulder Creek at Arapahoe Avenue pedestrian bridge replacement

Boulder Creek at Arapahoe Avenue

- **Duration:** Summer
- **Description:** Builds new pedestrian and bike bridge
- **Impact:** Minimal, with no detours necessary

7 Baseline Underpass

Baseline Road between Broadway and 27th Way

- **Duration:** Spring 2016 through spring 2017
- **Description:** Builds underpass to replace current street-level pedestrian and bike crossing to improve safety
- **Impact:** Lane closures in each direction. Crosswalk will be closed. Bus stop and business access will remain open

8 Hanover Avenue multiuse path

Hanover Avenue between Broadway and 46th Street

- **Duration:** Spring to summer
- **Description:** Builds multi-use path along roadway, adds curb extensions and marked crosswalks
- **Impact:** Lane narrowing, occasional lane closures. Pedestrian detours

Visit CoTrip.org for information about Colorado Department of Transportation projects or bouldercounty.org/roads/construction/pages/default.aspx for Boulder County projects.

Please note that start and completion dates could change due to things such as weather.

Check out what's up on University Hill

Do you know what's happening on University Hill? We know this is a vital part of town, and we are working with residents and businesses to make much needed improvements.

The city's Hill Reinvestment Strategy (HRS) is in its second year, and several projects are close to implementation:

- A pilot Hill Employee EcoPass Program, which will provide free bus transit to participants;
- Installation of a permanent public gathering space on Pennsylvania Avenue;
- Installation of tree irrigation in the Hill Commercial Area; and
- Pedestrian lighting on Hill neighborhood streets.

In the next three to five years, the city is considering additional enhancements, including:

- An underground public parking garage in conjunction with a proposed hotel project at Broadway and University;
- Façade improvements; and,
- An alley enhancement program.

Learn More

If you would like to learn more about the city's work on the Hill, please visit

bouldercolorado.gov/commercial-districts/university-hill, or contact Sarah Wiebenson, Hill Community Development Coordinator, at 303-921-4314 or **WiebensonS@bouldercolorado.gov**.



The city also continues to focus on code enforcement, transit accessibility, public safety programs, town-gown programs, designation of a National Register Historic District, zero waste initiatives, public art, and workforce-affordable housing for the Hill.

Hill community members are active participants in identifying and prioritizing these efforts. Several have been appointed to the Hill Reinvestment Working Group (HRWG).

Take steps to minimize wildfire risks

Given the changing climate and resulting weather conditions, the City of Boulder now employs a year-round wildfire crew to help prepare for and respond to wildfires. Boulder-Fire Rescue will make every effort to protect lives and property while following safety standards, but you have an important role to play, too. If you are a property owner, there are some steps you could take now to minimize risks to your homes:

- Most of the damage or destruction that occurs to a home from a wildfire is the result of hot embers landing on or near a home. If you live within one mile of a location where a large wildfire could occur, you are in the “ember zone” and should consider choosing building materials that can withstand fire more easily.

- Create a “fire-free” area within five feet of your home by limiting the amount of flammable vegetation and materials surrounding your home and increasing the moisture content of remaining vegetation.

We are here to support your efforts to prepare for a wildfire. Boulder Fire-Rescue has created a Wildland Fire Preparedness Guide that can be picked up at any of our seven fire stations or on our website at **bouldercolorado.gov/fire-rescue**.

Get checked

If you are interested in a free on-site home evaluation, please call or e-mail the Fire-Rescue at 303-441-4355 or **wildfire-help@bouldercolorado.gov**.



Short-term rentals become legal

Homeowners must apply for license and meet requirements

With summer fast approaching, you may be thinking about listing your property as a short-term rental, or you may be interested in learning about short-term rentals that are available in the city. Boulder's short-term rental ordinance took effect on Jan. 4, 2016, allowing homeowners to apply for a license to rent their property for less than 30 days at a time.

In passing the ordinance, City Council considered the importance of balancing growing interest with potential impacts on neighborhoods, housing stock and existing hospitality businesses.

The ordinance defines short-term rentals as properties that are rented for less than 30 days at a time, excluding dwellings owned by the federal government, the state, or any of their agencies or political subdivisions licensed by the state as health care facilities. A short-term rental must be the owner's principal residence, and permanently affordable units do not qualify. Additionally, a property owner may not hold both a short-term and long-term rental license, at the same, time for one property. A full list of requirements is available in the short-term rental license application packet available online or in person at the Planning and Development Services (P&DS) Center, located at 1739 Broadway, 3rd floor.



For additional information about the short-term rental license requirements and how to apply, please visit:

bouldercolorado.gov/plan-develop/short-term-rentals.

A short-term rental license is required. To apply, a property owner must review and complete the short-term rental license application packet, and then mail or submit the packet in person to the P&DS Center, at least two weeks prior to the advertisement or rental of the property. Once city staff reviews and approves the application materials, the city

will issue both a rental license and business license to the owners. Short-term rental licenses are valid for four years or until the property is sold; this is the same amount of time as a standard rental license.

Since the ordinance took effect, there have been more than 100 applications submitted for short-term rental licenses. As of Feb. 26, there were 73 licensed short-term rentals in the city. All licensed short-term rentals are included on the city's rental license map available online.

Your vehicle is like an oven **Don't let your dog cook!**

Even on a mildly warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can reach over 130 degrees. A dog can withstand a body temperature up to 108 degrees for only a very short time before suffering brain damage or even death.



If you observe an animal in distress, call the Boulder Police Department
303-441-3333 or 9-1-1

For more information about caring for your pet during the summer, contact the Boulder Police Department's Animal Control Unit at **303-441-1874**.

A poster for Earth Week featuring a house with solar panels. The text reads: "Earth Week", "Join the City of Boulder and various community groups in celebration and action for Earth Week.", "April 18 to April 24", and "Visit www.BoulderClimate.com for a full list of events and activities."/>

Earth Week

Join the City of Boulder and various community groups in celebration and action for Earth Week.

April 18 to April 24

Visit www.BoulderClimate.com for a full list of events and activities.

Boulder Public Library spreads its wings

Community embracing BLDG 61 Makerspace and Boulder Art Cinema

We know you love it for the books and literary programs, but your public library is increasingly becoming *the* place to be with two exciting new ventures. BLDG 61 Makerspace and Boulder Art Cinema opened in February and are already proving to be popular attractions.

BLDG 61 is an all-ages community workshop located in the north wing of the Main Boulder Public Library. The space is dedicated to hands-on learning and cultivating valuable experiences in the community through making/creating/building. More than 1,000 people attended the grand opening on Feb. 18, to create their own maker notebook and see the equipment in action. BLDG 61 features a CNC machine, laser cutter, woodworking tools, pottery wheels, screen printing press, textile equipment, firing kiln, 3D printers, vinyl cutter, hand tools and more! BLDG 61 is generously supported by the Boulder Library Foundation, and offers classes and programs. Check out the website boulderlibrary.org/bldg61/ or call 303-441-3100 for details.

For the first time in decades, our community now has a movie theater downtown! In a historic partnership, Boulder Public Library and Downtown Boulder, Inc. (DBI) opened Boulder Art Cinema, a first-run, full-service independent movie theater, with a state-of-the-art digital



Young people get hands-on and creative at BLDG 61 during the grand opening.

projection and sound system along with a new screen. The grand opening was Feb. 25 in the Main Library's Canyon Gallery.

Boulder Art Cinema shows films Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings with a custom-designed concessions menu from Seeds Library Café. For show times, tickets and information, visit: BoulderArtCinema.org. Cinema sponsors include Avery Brewing Company, Bookcliff Vineyards, EcoProducts, and Daily Camera, with support from Violet Crown Cinema and Boulder International Film Festival.

WATER from Page 9

"We looked at a lot of different products," said Cole Sigmon, the process engineer, "and Avery was one of the first to respond."

"To take what is normally a waste stream for our brewery, and have it turned into a useful component for our city's wastewater system, is truly a unique opportunity that we couldn't be more proud to be a part of," said Steve Breezley, chief operating officer for Avery Brewing.

The estimated total cost of the 2015 Nitrogen Upgrades

Project is \$4.5 million, which includes modifications to existing nutrient removal basins at the facility and the external carbon and feed tank going up at Avery.

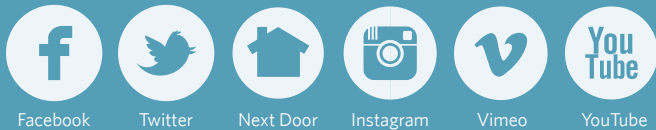
Sigmon is proud not only of the project, but of the commitment it represents to the community.

"We have a big utility out here, and there's a lot of rate payer money invested here," he said. "We have a core purpose, but we're starting to think of ourselves as more of an environmental campus. I'd love for people to look at us and say, 'Hey, that place is pretty cool. They are doing some really cool things.'"

Connect with us

Find the City of Boulder on social media

Get the latest news, information and videos about what's happening in our community.



Use Inquire Boulder to get questions answered, report issues.

Inquire Boulder is the city's virtual city information desk, giving you the opportunity to look up information and submit non-urgent service requests to the City of Boulder 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visit inquireboulder.com to access it, or download the app by searching in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

WELCOME from Page 1

We realize there may be some questions about creating a paper product given our shared sustainability values. We want you to know that we took this into account as we made our decisions about how to produce and distribute this resource. We made recycled paper and certification by Forest Stewardship Council or Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) mandatory parts of our selection criteria.

We are also creating an electronic version of this product, which you can sign up to receive in your e-mail. (Information on the back page of this newsletter provides instructions about how to do this.)

This newsletter and new technology platforms are just some of the ways we are improving our outreach and communications efforts. The goal is to ensure that we are informing and engaging with our community as broadly as possible.

We also remain committed to face-to-face dialogue through open houses, information sessions, public and neighborhood meetings and panel discussions. Earlier this year, we tested out the concept of place-based "listening sessions" to hear ideas from you and other community members as we launched the update of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan with our partners at Boulder County.

This approach was so successful that City Council asked



Deputy Director of Planning Susan Richstone meets with residents during a listening session.

staff to explore the possibility of scheduling council conversations out in the community with no set agenda other than to hear what constituents have to say.

However you choose to get your news, we hope the increased information and opportunities to connect with your city staff and elected officials will inspire you to get involved, ask questions, provide input and tap into your local government to make your life easier and better.

We welcome your suggestions and story ideas for future newsletters. Please email communitynewsletter@bouldercolorado.gov with any feedback.

Join the city's biggest spring cleaning event!

Boulder Parks and Recreation's volunteer team invites you to participate in the 14th annual Clean Up Day event on **SATURDAY, MAY 21** to help with park beautification, tree plantings, creek cleanup, trail restoration and more. This one-day community event rallies hundreds of volunteers across the city. Will you be one of them?

Visit bprvolunteer.org for details and registration. All ages are welcome.

National Kids to Parks Day is also taking place on May 21.
Join us from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to explore science, history, nature and adventure activities in the Civic Area.

Getting around town: We're making progress!

Curious how well Boulder is doing when it comes to encouraging people to carpool, reduce traffic jams or add transportation options? Then check out the 2016 Transportation Report on Progress. This report card tracks the progress of the city and the community in achieving the goals of the 2014 Transportation Master Plan.

The plan was updated following an outreach process that engaged members of the community with diverse experiences and perspectives. It sets ambitious goals to create a sustainable transportation system that offers everyone reliable options, whether they choose to walk, bike, bus or drive.

This report is for anyone who wants to know what Boulder is doing to achieve the community's transportation vision and support the city's Climate Commitment and overall sustainability and resiliency goals.

Facts from the report:



People in the Boulder Valley **drive less** than they did in 2002 and even 1994.



The average weekday ridership of regional bus routes is **up 57 percent** since 2002.



The number of Boulder's intersections that are heavily congested has **dropped more than 10 percentage points** in four years, to 9 percent.

Go to bouldercolorado.gov/transportation to read the report, which also identifies areas to improve, such as improving walking, biking and transit options. And join us Thursday, April 21, to learn about the Transportation Division's 2016 priorities and projects, including Complete Streets and the remaining Living Lab projects. Details are on the website.

TRANSIT TIP

HOP-ping to it now and into the future!

The HOP has been transporting CU riders to and from some of the hottest spots in town for 21 years. If you haven't checked it out, this popular bus route hits the campus, the Twenty Ninth Street Retail District, downtown Boulder, University Hill and now Boulder Junction. The fare is \$2.60, and riders with Eco-Passes travel free.

Not only is this a great way to get around, but now, you could play a role in helping to shape its future! As the HOP enters its next phase of life, the city is conducting a Transit Study to better understand the needs and demands of current and potential riders.

New development, including Boulder Junction at Depot Square Station, has created a new ridership base. User patterns have changed, and Boulder's transit network has seen expansions and updates that were not in place when the HOP began operating. Additionally, the new Google campus opening in 2017 is expected to create additional usage.



To ensure that this service continues to be valuable into the future, city staff and a consultant will be working together to conduct public outreach to riders, complete an analysis of needs and demands, and consider potential route design alternatives.

You are invited to get involved in the community process around this longstanding and beloved transit option. For additional project information and a timeline of engagement opportunities, please visit: bouldercolorado.gov/goboulder/hop-transit-study.

Have you seen us lately?

Boulder 8 TV in Hi-Def, online and on the go

If you haven't seen Boulder on television lately, it's time to check out your local channel. One of the first changes is the name of our channel. You will now find the channel listed as Boulder 8 TV on your Comcast guide. The city station is broadcasting in High Definition on Comcast channel 880 and streaming in high-definition 24/7, allowing non-cable subscribers to watch Boulder programming from anywhere with an Internet-connected device.

"Traditional TV watching is evolving. The trend in broadcasting is to create shows in High Definition and to expand access to those HD shows over the Internet and mobile devices," said Patrick von Keyserling, city communication director. "In 2016, Boulder became one of the first government access channels in Colorado to launch an HD channel and to stream HD content 24/7, making local programming available to non-cable subscribers in real time."

Boulder residents also may notice a new lineup of community-interest programming. In addition to live coverage of all City Council sessions, some boards and commissions meetings and the weekly local news, Boulder 8 TV has expanded to include live world news provided by France 24 English, science programs from NASA-X, Ted-style talks from PopTech TV, city information and weather, local talk shows, exercise shows and local arts and



culture programs. Later this spring, the city will add closed captioning for public meetings and Inside Boulder News.

For a complete program schedule, visit boulderchannel8.com or your Comcast guide channel.

CLIMATE from Page 2

While climate change poses significant challenges, it also will create opportunities that can improve our local community. We can make the air and our surroundings healthier, especially for children and others with asthma. We can build on Boulder's entrepreneurial spirit and economic engines, especially in the clean tech field. And relying less on others for our energy will help to make us safer.

The need to transform our energy system – and clean the power supply – has been the driving force of much of the city's recent climate work. The exploration of municipalization is one example. Analyses conducted over the past few years suggest the city could switch to renewable sources of energy more rapidly, while keeping rates and reliability comparable to those provided by Xcel Energy, if the

city owned its own electric utility. This would also give the community more say in investments to our infrastructure and increase Boulder's opportunities to pioneer technology.

Municipalization is not the only strategy. The city remains open to other possibilities, including partnering with Xcel if an agreement can be reached that prioritizes Boulder's goals. The city will also continue to implement stringent energy codes and support leading-edge energy efficiency programs.

Real action will take all of us, and we need your participation. Read through the Climate Commitment at BoulderClimate.com and watch for social media posts seeking your specific feedback. Get involved in community events taking place April 18 to April 24.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Services available for struggling families

Boulder awoke to a beautiful winter morning. The kids were excited that Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) had called a snow day. But my wife and I were not looking forward to the long day at home. We were sitting inside, bundled under blankets, wearing coats and hats. The thermostat read 12 degrees. I was laid off, unable to pay our bills, and the heat had been cut off.

As a distraction, I picked up the school newsletter and discovered that our school was a Family Resource School (FRS). An article explained that FRS might be able to help us with resources or referrals for basic needs assistance. I called and left a message for our school's coordinator. We met the next day. She connected us with help to get the power back on and other support programs. We are so grateful!

...

These are the kinds of stories that Family Outreach Coordinator Ana Silvia hears on a regular basis, thanks to FRS, a valuable partnership between the City of Boulder and BVSD. The program serves children and families at five elementary schools in Boulder: Columbine, Creekside, Crest View, University Hill and Whittier.

“While Boulder is seen as a fortunate community, we know that there are lots of families who are struggling to meet

- For more information on Family Resource Schools (FRS), please visit: bit.ly/1LRFfS6
- For more information on the Family Resource Center (FRC), please visit: bit.ly/1UTdhY6

their basic needs,” Silvia said. “It is an honor to be able to connect them with services that make a huge impact for them and their children – and help reduce stresses that can prevent a student’s ability to succeed in school.”

If your child does not attend one of these schools but lives in the City of Boulder, or is enrolled in a BVSD school within the city, you may be able to get help through the Family Resource Center (FRC).

The FRC serves all residents of the City of Boulder with a child up to 19 years old or families with a child enrolled in a BVSD school within the city limits. Both programs support families’ capacity to raise healthy, well-functioning and successful children. Prevention and early intervention services are developed and delivered according to the unique needs of families in each school community. The program especially emphasizes outreach to traditionally underserved populations.

GET OUTSIDE

Sign up for guided hikes and nature programs

Want to learn more about the City of Boulder’s unique open space system? Sign up for guided hikes and educational programs led by Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) naturalists and volunteers!

Every month, Open Space and Mountain Parks hosts a wide range of environmental educational opportunities through its Natural Selections program, providing information on ecology, wildlife, local history, night hikes and astronomy.

Go to NatureHikes.org to see a listing of scheduled events and sign up for email updates. Many programs require reservations, and available spots are often reserved shortly after programs are posted online. We’ll see you out on the trail!



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This community newsletter is created by the City of Boulder to share local government news, information, initiatives and events with residents.



It will be printed and distributed bi-monthly through 2017. You also can sign up to receive an electronic version in your email inbox by visiting bouldercolorado.gov/newsletter.

We welcome your feedback!

If you have suggestions for future stories you'd like to read, please email them to communitynewsletter@bouldercolorado.gov.



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Jane Brautigam
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brautigamj@bouldercolorado.gov

Important City of Boulder Phone Numbers

Emergency
911

Non-emergency
dispatch line
303-441-3333
(24/7)

City
switchboard
303-441-3388
Monday to Friday,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



In keeping with Boulder's sustainability values, the paper used for this newsletter contains recycled content and the printer is FSC certified, which means they follow standards required by the Forest Stewardship Council. Please recycle this newsletter after use.